Allocation of funds in budget for Western Central Railway located in Jabalpur

†755. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for allocating Rs. 50 lakhs only in the Budget for 2001-2002 to Western-Central Railway, located in Jabalpur;

(b) whether the said Railway Zone is being abolished; and

(c) if so, the reasons trherefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) An outlay of Rs. 50 lakhs during 2001-2002 has been provided for in the budget. The Railways are presently facing acute resource constraints necessitating a review of the investment planning. The proposed new Zones/Divisions including one at Jabalpur new zone will gradually become operational, depending upon the result of the review and the availability of investible resources for this purpose by the Railways.

Gauge-conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia rail line

†756. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in gauge-conversion work of Jabalpur-Gondia rail line;

(b) whether this project has been placed in the uncertainty category;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed to complete the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for not getting permission to block the Gondia-Balaghat middle line; and

(f) whether there is any plan to begin work of this project from the Jabalpur; stating the hindrance in starting conversion work from Jabalpur and despite assurance by the G.M., Central Railway to Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Work of Gauge Conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia line is being progressed as per the operational requirement and availability of resources.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.